

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

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----- 007972

R 040259Z JUL 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 144998

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, LY
SUBJECT: SALE OF AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM TO LIBYA

REF: JIDDA 3701

1. SHOULD OCCASION ARISE, AMBASSADOR MAY TELL PRINCE FAHD THAT DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY INFORMED NORTHROP PAGE CORPORATION THAT USG HAS NO FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTION TO SALE OF AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM TO LIBYA. PARTICULAR SYSTEM IN QUESTION WOULD BE A FIXED NETWORK OF RADAR AND INFORMATION HANDLING EQUIPMENT. IT WOULD BE STRICTLY DEFENSIVE AND CONTAIN NO LETHAL ITEMS. TOTAL VALUE OF THE INITIAL CONTRACT WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY DOLS 150 MILLION AND COULD BE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER IF OTHER COMPONENTS ARE ADDED.

2. THE BRITISH AND THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE BIDDING AND THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED INDICATIONS THAT THE LIBYANS HAVE DISCUSSED AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM WITH THE
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SOVIETS. SINCE THIS CONTRACT IS BASICALLY A SYSTEM OF A

DEFENSIVE CHARACTER AND IS A SYSTEM WHICH THE LIBYANS CAN BUY, IN ANY EVENT, FROM OTHER SOURCES, WE DECIDED TO ALLOW THE COMPANY TO PROCEED WITH ITS BID.

3. OUR DECISION REFLECTS OUR DESIRE TO SUPPORT THE COMMERCIAL INTEREST OF AMERICAN PRIVATE BUSINESS WHEN

POSSIBLE AND NOT CONTRARY TO OTHER U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS.

4. FOR CAIRO: YOU MAY INFORM GOE IN RESPONSE FAHMI'S REQUEST (CAIRO 4502-NOTAL). SISCO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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